

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region

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SUBJECT: Notice of availability for an environmental impact statement: Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary Unit Restoration and Pumping Plant/Fish Screen Facility Protection Project, California.

I. SUMMARY

The Notice of Availability (NOA) documents the availability of the draft environmental impact statement for the Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary Unit Restoration and Pumping Plant/Fish Screen Facility Protection Project located in Glenn and Butte Counties, California.

II. DISCUSSION

The proposed project includes riparian restoration and protection of the Princeton-Cordora-Glenn and Provident Irrigation Districts pumping plant and fish screen facility. The Riparian Sanctuary is part of the Llano Seco Unit of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge).

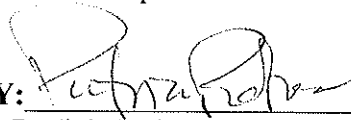
The Llano Seco Unit was acquired by the Service in 1991 as part of the Joint Management Agreement between Parrot Investment Co., The Nature Conservancy, California Department Fish and Game, and the Service to cooperatively manage lands on the Llano Seco Ranch. The property was cleared of riparian vegetation by the previous owner in the 1970s. The remaining habitat is dominated by non-native and invasive noxious weeds.

This Unit of the Refuge is located directly across the Sacramento River from the PCGID-PID pump facility. Rock revetment placed on the north end of the refuge property in the 1980s by the California Department of Water Resources in order to preserve the stage-discharge relationship of the Butte Basin Goose Lake overflow structure is now causing bank erosion on the refuge property and the migration of the Sacramento River. As the bank erodes, the angle of flow and velocity of water passing the PCGID-PID fish screens will change, trapping fish against the screen rather than sweeping them past. Without some type of protection the pumping facility will fail to meet NOAA fish guidelines for operation of the pumping plant fish screen.

III. CONTROVERSY ASSESSMENT

Project alternatives include rock revetment on the Sacramento River, which may not be acceptable to some segments of the public.

PREPARED BY:



DATE:

1/25/2012

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